

## **CAREFUL!! Solitary Sociable Beluga Whale Present**

It is unlawful to interfere with the natural behavior of marine mammals in U.S. waters. Watch responsibly.

### **Have you seen this whale?**

8-9 ft long, light gray, no dorsal fin, bulbous head, short beak, teeth, inquisitive

#### **North of Rockland**

**CALL 207-288-5644**

Allied Whale/College of the Atlantic  
Stranding Hotline

#### **Rockland and South**

**CALL 617-973-5247**

New England Aquarium Stranding Hotline  
or the USCG on VHF Channel 16

#### **Report:**

- \* **Location:** Where you saw him
- \* **Description:** Behavior, condition
- \* **Documentation:** photos/ video

Northeast regional guidelines for safe dolphin watching apply:

[http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/prot\\_res/MMWatch/protect\\_dolphins.htm](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/prot_res/MMWatch/protect_dolphins.htm)

**POCO also needs some special care from mariners while he is visiting**



Courtesy The Whale Stewardship Project



**Poco with wound July 2004**

**Go Slow:** Slow to no-wake speeds, 7kt or less, around whale, which is attracted to the sound of boat motors.

**Turn off your motor. Poco may come very near the prop:** Strange but true. This especially applies within **150 ft**. The wound seen in the photo above may have occurred during an encounter with a vessel.

**Do Not Get into the Water:** Although he is not known to be aggressive, belugas have teeth and can ram hard with their noses. Even a playful nip or nudge may be dangerous for you and him.

**Do Not Play with Him:** Resist the urge to interact with him. Even if it seems like he is asking for it. And he might. We do not want to seem like his new family he has one, and we want him to return to it, wild and alive.

**Do Not Feed Him:** He does not want your bologna sandwich (you may not either, but that is another story.) He needs to keep his hunting skills sharp and needs time to eat uninterrupted. He is a growing mammal.

**Do Not Interfere With Natural Behavior:** Move away if you cannot avoid him.

## **Previous sightings**

### **Canada**

September 2003, Bay of Fundy near Pocologan

September-early December 2003, coastal New Brunswick

February 2004, Deer Island New Brunswick

### **USA**

March 2004, Gloucester, MA

April 2004, Boston Harbor, MA

May & June 2004, North Shore, Cape Ann MA

Late June, 2004, Cape Elizabeth, ME

July 2004, Rockland, ME

### **For more on Poco**

Visit the Whale Stewardship Project

<http://www.whalestewardship.org>

### **For more on belugas**

<http://nmml.afsc.noaa.gov/CetaceanAssessment/BelugaWhale.html>

<http://nmml.afsc.noaa.gov/education/cetaceans/beluga1.htm>